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Analyses' Rejection Called Political

Knight-Ridder

A top intelligence analyst who quit the Central Intelligence Agency after Director William J. Casey altered one of his secret reports on Mexico contends that Casey and Pentagon officials consistently reject analyses for political reasons.

In a magazine article, John Horton said Casey dismissed his estimate of the number of Cuban soldiers on Grenada—later verified by the U.S. forces that invaded the island in October 1983—because it did not support the administration's hard-line views on the Cubans.

Horton also accused a senior Pentagon official of rewriting a mil-

itary analyst's report on weaknesses in the Salvadoran armed forces and charged the administration with a string of intelligence failures, including the Grenada invasion and the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, which he said the intelligence community would have advised against had it been asked.

Horton, a top CIA operations officer from 1948 to 1975 who was chief Latin America officer in 1983 and 1984 for the National Intelligence Council, which prepares foreign intelligence estimates, made his accusations in this month's Foreign Service Journal.

The article accuses Casey of disapproving the Grenada estimate be-

cause it minimized the number of Cuban forces on the island and did not support administration claims that the Cuban-built airport there would be used for military purposes.

Horton also wrote that a confidential study prepared by a military analyst in 1984 was rewritten by a Pentagon official because it "contained a discussion of the Salvadoran armed forces' weaknesses." Horton said the official was "heavily involved in supporting the armed forces of El Salvador."

The revision, Horton charged, was typical of the practice of some administration officials to suppress internal discussion of tough issues.